

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

THE WEISER LAW FIRM, P.C., et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

MICHAEL HARTLEIB,

Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION

NO. 19-2728-KSM

**ORDER**

AND NOW, this 30th day of January, 2025, it is **ORDERED** that a **PRETRIAL CONFERENCE**<sup>1</sup> will be held on **Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.**, followed by a *in-person* settlement conference with Magistrate Judge Carol Sandra Moore Wells to be held at **2:00 p.m.** in Judge Wells's Chambers (Room 3016 of the James A. Byrne United States Courthouse). **Counsel and their clients shall appear in person for both the Rule 16 hearing and the settlement conference.**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** as follows:

1. Lead counsel shall participate in the joint conference conducted pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f) and attend the pretrial conference. The Court shall deem the attorney who participates in the Rule 26(f) conference and who takes the lead at the pretrial conference as lead counsel for all matters going forward in the case.

2. By **Friday, February 7, 2025**, counsel for the Parties shall submit via e-mail, in

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<sup>1</sup> The pretrial conference will be held in a Courtroom to be determined at the James A. Byrne United States Courthouse, 601 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Chambers will email both parties the Courtroom number before the pretrial conference.

the form attached hereto, a joint report of the conference that they conduct pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f).<sup>2</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

/s/ Karen Spencer Marston  
KAREN SPENCER MARSTON, J.

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<sup>2</sup> A Word version of this form is available on Judge Marston's page on the Court's website.

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**JOINT RULE 26(f) REPORT**

Following a fulsome discussion, as contemplated by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f), the Parties aver as follows:

**I. Counsel**

A. Lead counsel for Plaintiff(s): \_\_\_\_\_

B. Lead counsel for Defendant(s): \_\_\_\_\_

C. Counsel who participated in Rule 26(f) conference on behalf of Plaintiff(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

D. Counsel who participated in Rule 26(f) conference on behalf of Defendant(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**II. Description of Claims and Defenses**

The Parties should assume that the Court has read the Complaint and is familiar with the claims. However, the Court does not know all of the facts supporting those claims, nor the factual bases for the defenses. Therefore, counsel shall summarize the primary facts and threshold legal

issues. **Counsel should not merely parrot their pleadings.** In addition, the Parties should attach critical documents to this report for the Court to review, if not attached to the pleadings already (e.g., in a contract case, the document(s) comprising the contract; in a personal injury case, photographs of the scene, etc.).

### **III. Anticipated Scope of Discovery**

- A. Summarize with specificity those issues on which the Parties will need to conduct discovery. Identify categories of information each Party needs in discovery and why.
- B. Anticipated number of interrogatories per Party: \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Anticipated number of depositions per Party: \_\_\_\_\_
- D. To the extent either Party proposes to exceed the presumptive limits in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure for discovery, explain the basis for that proposal.
- E. Do the Parties anticipate the need for any third-party discovery? If so, identify the likely third-parties and the discovery to be sought.
- F. Do the Parties anticipate the need for experts? If so, identify the subjects on which the expert(s) may opine.

### **IV. Status of Discovery**

The Parties must summarize the status of discovery to-date. If nothing has been done in terms of discovery, the Parties should explain why. In general, the Court prefers the parties to begin discovery prior to the Rule 16 conference.

### **V. Proposed Case Management Deadlines**

When completing this section, the Parties should presume that the Court will not bifurcate fact and expert discovery. Therefore, the Parties should propose dates that take that presumption into account.

- A. Deadline to serve initial disclosures under Rule 26(a)(1) (\*must be exchanged at least one (1) business day before Rule 16 conference): \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Deadline to amend pleadings to add claims or Parties (\*must be as early as practicable to avoid prejudice or unnecessary delays): \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Deadline for affirmative expert reports (if any) and disclosure of lay witness opinion testimony with related information and documents (if any): \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Deadline for rebuttal expert reports (if any): \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Deadline to complete discovery: \_\_\_\_\_
- F. If any Party seeks more than 120 days for fact discovery, explain why.
- G. Deadline to file motion for summary judgment: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **VI. Deposition Scheduling**

The Court expects the Parties to meet and confer as soon as practicable to set aside dates to hold open for depositions before the close of discovery. If the Parties have not already done so, the Court will order the Parties to do so within two weeks of the Rule 16 conference.

Have the Parties set aside dates for deposition? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If yes, what are those dates? \_\_\_\_\_

If no, when do the parties intend to confer, and how many dates do they intend to set aside?

\_\_\_\_\_

#### **VII. Electronic Discovery**

**Prior to the Rule 16 conference**, the Court expects the Parties to have a thorough discussion about electronic discovery, including but not limited to 1) the need for electronically stored information (“ESI”), 2) sources of ESI, 3) the anticipated scope of electronic discovery, 4) the identity of potential custodians, 5) whether search terms will be necessary and, if so, any

limitations thereto, 6) the respective burdens of collecting, reviewing, and producing ESI, including any claims for cost-shifting under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and 7) any anticipated problems with electronic discovery. The Parties should summarize their discussion on these issues here. The Court expects counsel who attends the Rule 16 conference to be familiar with and able to discuss any ESI-related issues that might arise.

In addition, the Parties should state whether they have agreed to an ESI stipulation. If so, **the Parties should submit the stipulation to the Court in advance of the Rule 16 conference.**

If not, the Parties should identify what issues need to be resolved to finalize the stipulation.

#### **VIII. Protective Orders and Confidentiality Agreements**

The Parties should indicate whether they anticipate the need for a protective order in this case. If so, the Parties must explain what type of information needs protection from disclosure and why such protection is warranted under governing standards. In addition, the Parties are directed to Judge Marston's Policies and Procedures concerning Protective Orders and Confidentiality Agreements.

#### **IX. Alternative Dispute Resolution**

- A. Have the Parties engaged in any settlement discussions? If so, set forth the status of those negotiations. If not, explain why not.
- B. Have the Parties explored or considered other forms of alternative dispute resolution? If so, summarize those efforts. If not, state the Parties' positions with respect to ADR, as required under Local Rule of Civil Procedure 53.3.
- C. Identify the individual who will attend the Rule 16 conference who will have authority to discuss settlement.

#### **X. Consent to Send Case to a Magistrate Judge**

The Parties should indicate whether they consent to have a United States Magistrate Judge conduct any or all proceedings in this case, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c).

**XI. Policies and Procedures**

Judge Marston's Policies and Procedures are available for the Parties to review on the Court's website. By signing below, counsel for each Party and/or each *pro se* Party represents that he or she has reviewed the Judge's Policies and Procedures and acknowledges the requirements contained therein. The Parties and their counsel further acknowledge by signing below that Judge Marston will strike pleadings and other submissions that do not comply with her Policies and Procedures.

**XII. Other Matters**

The Parties should identify any other issues that have not been addressed above but may require the Court's attention (e.g., anticipated motions, bifurcation, privilege issues, etc.).

Date:

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Counsel for Plaintiff

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Counsel for Defendant